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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

### EDUCATION MINISTER HONOURS LOCAL TEACHER

SUMMERLAND – Summerland secondary school teacher Linda Beaven joined Education Minister Shirley Bond in the legislature today for an Education Week ceremony to recognize recipients of the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence.

"Linda is a wonderful example of the high calibre of teachers in this province," said Bond. "The co-operation and compassion that students have learned in her classes will continue to prepare her students to be leaders in British Columbia and around the world."

Beaven, a performance teacher, was recognized for her many achievements, including founding the Goodwill Shakespeare Festival, which provides almost 350 student from around the province an opportunity to participate in workshops and performances put on by professional and post-graduate theatre specialists.

Beaven was also recognized for her leadership in helping students to see beyond physical disabilities when she had scripts translated into brail for a blind student who wanted to try acting. The student was so successful that he was cast to a major role in the Grade 12 production of Flickering Shadows. More than 50 of her students have gone on to successful careers in theatre and the arts.

"Linda has helped students turn their dreams into reality," said Okanagan-Westside MLA Rick Thorpe. "To have a mentor who gives you the direction and guidance to use your own confidence and skill to propel you to greater things is rare to find. Linda has proven to be one in a million and her students have flourished with her leadership."

"Linda's accomplishments in the performing arts have been truly outstanding – both in the school and in the larger community," said Okanagan Skaha school board chair Larry Little. "The enormous amount of time, talent and creative energy Linda has devoted to her students is one of the many measures of her commitment and dedication. As a result, hundreds of students will long remember the impact this special teacher has had on their lives and careers."

Beaven believes that the co-operative skills that students learn in drama make them exceptional workers and wonderful people. Former students have since become undercover police officers, diplomats, Miss Canada, entertainers and youth workers. The success of her students can be attributed to her philosophy that there are no stars. In Beaven's class, although one student may have more lines and spend more time on stage, the entire ensemble is collectively the star.

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Linda Beaven is among 14 B.C. educators who received the 2006 Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence. They joined Education Minister Shirley Bond today to honour their achievement as part of Education Week 2007. During Education Week 2008, Premier Gordon Campbell will announce the first-ever recipients of the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence.

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